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THIRD BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

Bureau of Child and Animal
Protection

State of Montana

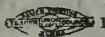
1907-8

JANUARY 1, 1909

State Capitol, Helena, Montana

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AND

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STATE CAPITOL, HELENA, MONTANA

A MATRON IS NEEDED.

Provision should be made for the employment of a matron in this Department at once. There is great need for the constant services of a good, sensible, Christian woman, to be commissioned as a deputy with authority to represent the Department. Almost every day in the year officers of the Bureau are called upon to take charge of cases that cannot decently be handled by men. Infant waifs who are picked up in remote corners of the State should be given into the custody of a woman; the system which contemplates a man caring for a baby a few months old, or a sick little girl, during a two or three days trip, is both inhuman and indecent. This work can only be properly done by a woman of mature years and kindly heart and Christian purpose.

TWO GOOD OFFICERS.

I have only words of praise for the really splendid services rendered this Bureau by my two deputies, Mr. Peter J. Gilligan of Butte, and Mr. Waller Shobe of Helena. It is but fair to state that much of the really effective work performed by the Department during my connection with it, has been done by these two most able, loyal and conscientious officers.

By reason of the fact that Butte and Silver Bow County furnish a large percentage of the cases which come under the attention of this Department, Mr. Gilligan is permanently located in Butte. It is the ready testimony of all classes of citizens at all familiar with the facts, that Mr. Gilligan's work is of the most praiseworthy character. He is courteous, kindly, and energetic; he uses uniformly good judgment in the discharge of his official duties. He is really an admirable officer for the place.

To no man in all Montana is the great progress of humane work due more than to Mr. Waller Shobe, deputy of this Bureau located at Helena. He is a pioneer in the good work. It was largely through his intelligent efforts that this Bureau was established as a permanent department of the State Government. He is a high-minded, intelligent, earnest and honest man. Utterly fearless and impartial in the discharge of his duties, Mr. Shobe invariably exercises tact and kindness. An intelligent, generous man, Mr. Shobe is really an invaluable man to this Department.

SHIPMENT OF LIVESTOCK.

It is my duty to briefly call attention to the attitude assumed by many of the large railroad corporations of Montana towards this Bureau. Not only have the Northern Pacific, the Great Northern, and the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad companies furnished transportation for the use of this Department, but the officials of those lines have displayed a gratifying disposition to help along the work of this Department in every way. In the shipment of livestock during the last few months, officers of the Bureau have frequently called the attention of railroad officials to dangers and hardships threatening livestock in transit and, in every instance, prompt and vigorous efforts have been put forth by the railroad authorities, to remedy the conditions complained of. Intelligent, humane action on the part of shippers and handlers of livestock does much to minimize the suffering of the dumb brutes on the way from the range to the market.

Undoubtedly the letter of the law, as well as the spirit of the statute governing livestock shipments, are frequently violated by heartless or thoughtless parties, but the most gratifying evidence has accumulated during recent months going to shew the honest wish of the railroad authorities to keep within the law and impose as little hardship as possible upon the livestock in their keeping.

The energetic and intelligent work performed by my predecessor in the office of Secretary of this Bureau, Mr. Otto F. Schoenfeld, is bearing abundant fruit. That gentleman labored with indefatigable zeal to enlarge the power and extend the usefulness of this Department and his great labors have accomplished lasting good.

ST. JOSEPH'S ORPHANS' HOME.

Among all of the institutions of the State of Montana, designed for the protection, care and education of unfortunate children, St. Joseph's Orphans' Home, at Helena, is conspicuous by reason of the splendid work performed in behalf of the children by the good Sisters of Charity in charge of that institution.

This Department frankly acknowledges St. Joseph's Orphans' Home as one of the most potent influences and agencies in the work of reclaiming, educating and protecting

the unfortunate children of the State. It is sad to think what would become of hundreds of the poor children of this State were it not for the splendid work performed by the Sisters of Charity through the agency of the Orphans' Home.

These pious women, who have sanctified their lives and dedicated them to the service of charity, annually accomplish untold good. Scores of children are taken from want, poverty and distress and by the Sisters, educated, fed and clothed, out of funds voluntarily contributed to the Sisters in aid of their noble work.

The institution, which is located in the valley below Helena, is one of the most complete of its kind in the Western country. The inmates are furnished all the ordinary comforts of a good home. They are zealously protected and treated with uniform care and kindness. The most devout attention is paid to the moral, physical and intellectual welfare of the children. Kindness, goodness and the elevating principles of true Christianity, are the governing characteristics of the policy of the Sisters in charge. Surely the people of Montana, without regard to their religious convictions, owe a great debt of gratitude to the Sisters of Charity who are maintaining St. Joseph's Orphans' Home. The institution is daily growing, its work is extending and it occupies to-day a position of commanding importance in the educational and charitable work of the State.

There were, on the 1st of January, 1909, confined in St. Joseph's Orphans' Home, two hundred and forty-four children.

THE PAUL CLARK HOME.

During the last two years the Paul Clark Home, established by Senator William A. Clark, in memory of his lamented son, Paul, has been remodeled, enlarged and vastly improved.

A large number of unfortunate little children are receiving a good education and the kindly attentions of a good home in this very worthy institution.

The Home is under the direction of a Board of Trustees composed of very broad-minded, charitable and progressive citizens of Butte. The expenses of the institution are paid by Senator Clark.

THE STATE REFORM SCHOOL.

During the year a change has taken place in the management of the State Reform School at Miles City. Mr. H. W. George of Minnesota succeeded the Reverend D. B. Price as Director. Mr. George is said to be a man of experience in the work that has been assumed by him.

Mr. Price was an able, conscientious and efficient head of that institution. His voluntary resignation, to resume his chosen work in the ministry, brought forth expressions of regret from all parts of the State.

THE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL AT BUTTE.

A splendid work is being done in the interests of the wayward children of Butte by the Industrial School, which is located on the flat a couple of miles south of the city, and is under the direction of Mr. Joseph R. Jackson, a man peculiarly fitted for this important work.

A magnificent new building, modern in every detail, has been erected and the children who are inmates of the institution are surrounded by every reasonable care and comfort.

The work of the institution is on a high plane and is being conducted according to the most modern ideas in the government of delinquent children.

It is to be hoped that the scope of the Industrial School will be enlarged so that juvenile delinquents from other parts of the State may be admitted to the Butte Industrial School upon a reasonable basis.

THE FLORENCE CRITTENTEN HOME.

At Helena is located another one of the most worthy institutions of the State whose object is to reclaim the wayward girls. The character of the work performed by the Crittenten Home is known to all the citizens of the State.

Established by Mr. Crittenten, a wealthy New York merchant, in memory of his lamented daughter, this institution has branches in all of the principal cities and towns of the United States where the work of reclaiming wayward and unfortunate young women is prosecuted with intelligent and inspiring Christian patience.

The Helena Home has been a shelter for many an unfortunate outcast who has found there, surcease from her cares,

kindly treatment and generous and much needed material help.

The good women in charge of the local institution do not receive in any measure, it is sad to say, the support from the people of the State that their most worthy efforts justly entitle them to. This Bureau gratefully acknowledges the splendid help given to this Department by the Florence Crittenton Home.

Surely if the wealthy men of Montana realized, even in a small way, the great, important and noble work such institutions are performing, constant appeals for the necessary funds for the maintenance of this Home would not be necessary on the part of the charitable people who are devoting their lives to the work.

THE STATE ORPHANS' HOME.

The State Orphans' Home, located at Twin Bridges, Montana, is one of the best conducted institutions of its kind in the West. Much credit is due the Superintendent, Reverend Wiley Mountjoy, who is a splendid man for the work. Both he and his excellent wife are greatly beloved by the children, who never have anything but words of praise for the treatment they receive.

During the past year many children have been taken from unworthy and unfit parents, who have abused and neglected them, and have been placed in the home by the officers of the Bureau of Child and Animal Protection. After a few weeks' stay here, these same little waifs would scarcely be recognized in the children whose bright, happy faces testify to the kind care which has been bestowed upon them.

A recent visit to the Home found these children all in the very best of health and the institution in good condition.

It is to be hoped that the next legislature will make an appropriation sufficient to cover some much needed improvements, among which is the laying of cement walks to connect the different buildings, as these are badly needed, especially in muddy weather.

THE HOME OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

In all Montana there is no institution doing a nobler or more effective work than is carried forward unostentatiously at the Home of the Good Shepherd in Helena. Within the sheltering walls of that kindly institution scores of unfortunate young girls who have fallen into evil ways, or who are beset by dangers, annually find rest and refuge.

Within recent months a magnificent new Convent building has been erected at Kenwood for the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The building is a commodious and imposing structure. Erected upon a slightly knoll, it commands a splendid view of the beautiful valley below Helena. This worthy edifice will provide comfortable quarters for two hundred young girls.

In the basement of the girls' building is a refectory thirty-eight by fifty feet, with bath rooms and clothes rooms. On the first floor is a recreation room forty by sixty feet and a sewing room thirty by forty feet. On the second floor is a dormitory forty by fifty feet and an infirmary thirty by forty feet and a chapel thirty by fifty-two feet. On the third floor is a dormitory forty by sixty feet and one thirty by fifty-two feet with a class room thirty by forty feet. Besides these there are lavatories for the children and baths and toilets on each floor, constructed according to the latest and most hygienic designs. The building was completed in December, 1908.

The object of the Home of the Good Shepherd is the protection of girls in danger; the education, manual and mental, of unfortunate women and girls without distinction of race or creed. Women and girls may be committed, or admitted on their own application or that of their parents or guardians. The younger girls go to school part of the day; the rest of the time they are employed at sewing or laundry work. The only remunerative industry is the laundry and a small revenue is derived from needlework.

Last May when the corner stone of the new building was laid with appropriate ceremonies, Bishop John P. Carroll delivered an address, during the course of which he said:

"Christianity has purged the leaven of corruption by honoring and ennobling woman. The Incarnation, by making Mary the mother of the God-Man, has raised woman to a dignity which she could not aspire to in her loftiest dreams. Woman

is no longer the slave of man's caprices and passions, but under Christianity she is the queen of the home and the regeneration of society. To remove from our girls and young women the pitfalls that surround their pathway in life and to lift them when they are fallen is the object of the House of the Good Shepherd. May it receive from all our citizens the encouragement and support to which its aims and purposes entitle it."

There are forty-nine girls in the House of the Good Shepherd at present. During the past year thirty-seven girls have entered the institution, fifteen were returned to their homes, three girls were provided with good positions and there was one death during the year.

MONTANA CHILDRENS' HOME SOCIETY.

Most commendable in every regard is the work being done by the Montana Childrens' Home Society, located at Helena. This is an incorporated, non-sectarian institution, supported entirely by voluntary contributions. Its work is State wide and its management appears to be in energetic and intelligent hands. Recently the society purchased a commodious home at Kenwood near Helena and there many homeless waifs find at least temporary comforts.

This society is doing a noble work. It annually finds good homes for many homeless children. A spirit of broad-minded Christianity and of good citizenship marks the work of this society. The present State Superintendent, Mr. Moyer, is a philanthropist of national reputation. He brings to his work in this State an extended experience of many years in charitable work in the large cities of the East and a reputation for business ability of a high order.

Rev. J. A. Barnes, who was formerly State Superintendent for the society, and who is known as one of the most energetic and efficient humanitarians in Montana, is still associated with the society and engaged actively in its work. When the extremely limited funds of the Montana Childrens' Home Society are considered, it is inspiring to observe the good work that the society has accomplished.

THE MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND.

Pathetic beyond expression is the condition of many of the inmates of the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, located at Boulder, Montana. The great physical afflictions suffered by most of these children arouse in the hearts of the people of the State the most sincere sympathy. And yet it is gratifying in the extreme to know that all that human knowledge can do is being done to lessen the burdens placed upon these children, and to educate them for the future.

The State has provided splendid modern buildings and, speaking broadly, the equipment is up-to-date and sufficient. Some additional apparatus is greatly needed and added accommodations are required in a few of the departments. These facts will be brought to your attention, I presume, in the report of the trustees of the institution.

It is sufficient to say here that the wards of the State at Boulder are receiving every possible kindness and assistance at the hands of Superintendent L. E. Milligan, and his competent corps of assistants and instructors.

Mr. Milligan has demonstrated his splendid capacity for the work that the State has entrusted to him.

